



## AVENTIS CROPS SCIENCE SA

### Use of HPPD inhibitors as selection agents in the transformation of plants

#### Abstract:

The present invention relates to a method for transforming plant cells by introducing a heterologous gene into said plant cells with a gene for tolerance to HPPD inhibitors as a selection marker, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing and culturing competent plant cells capable of receiving the heterologous gene in a suitable medium,
- b) transforming the competent cells with the heterologous gene and the selection marker,
- c) growing and selecting the transformed cells comprising the heterologous gene in a suitable medium,

characterized in that a step for bleaching the competent plant cells is carried out before the transformation step (b), by introducing a suitable amount of HPPD inhibitor into the suitable culture medium of the competent plant cells.